MARVEL
RIDLEY · SHAW · DALHOUSE
WAKANDA #4
STARRING:
TOSIN
ALSO FEATURING:
HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS

CARLOS PACHECO
1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK

Wakanda may be the most technologically advanced nation on Earth, but there are some Wakandan villages -- called "Mute Zones" -- that reject their country's tech. And in the mute zone of **ZIERRA**, where the Marube tribe lives, they have learned to incorporate vibranium into their skin with special tattoos that leave even Princess Shuri in awe of their achievements.

TOSIN ODUYE, a young man from Zierra, rejects not only Wakanda's technology but also its leadership, convinced there is a better way forward for his nation. Using vibranium powers that he accesses via his tattoos, Tosin fights for that better tomorrow as the hero called **THE WAKANDAN**.

WAKANDA

TOSIN IN "THE OTHER PATH"

JOHN RIDLEY WRITER
JULIAN SHAW ARTIST
ANDREW DALHOUSE COLOR ARTIST

NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE *BLACK PANTHER #12.*

"HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS"

CHAPTER FOUR

EVAN NARCISSE WRITER
NATACHA BUSTOS ARTIST
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE SABINO LETTERER
MATEUS MANHANINI COVER ARTIST
SANFORD GREENE
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

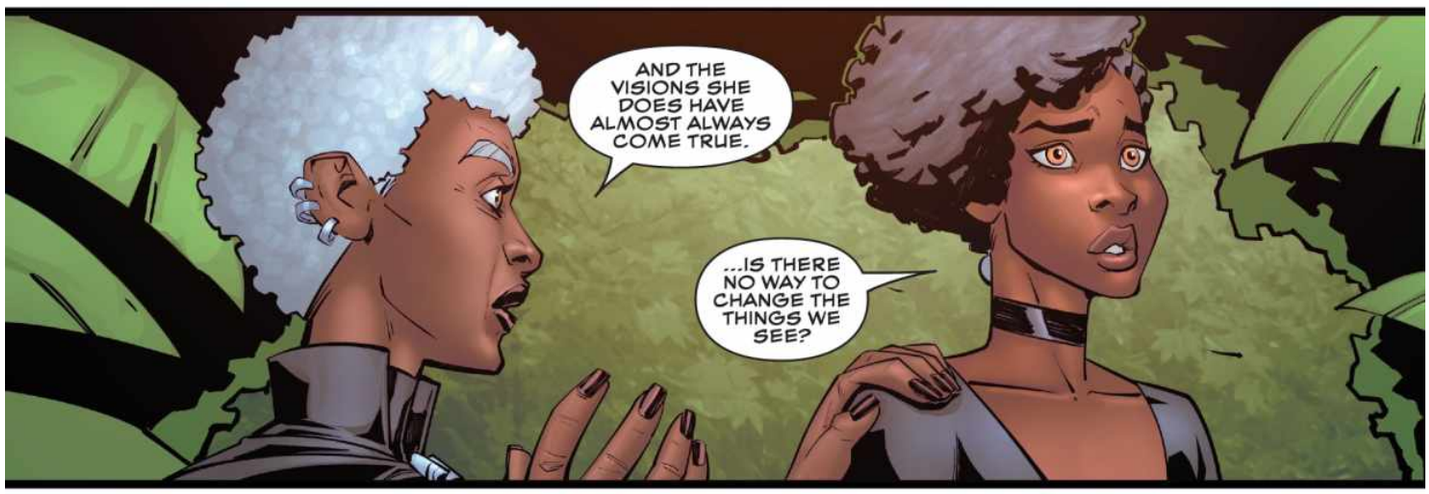
MICHELLE MARCHESE
ASSISTANT EDITOR
WIL MOSS EDITOR
C.B. CEBULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

WAKANDA CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
MAP OF WAKANDA BY ADAM SIMPSON,
AS PRESENTED IN DK'S *MARVEL UNIVERSE MAP BY MAP* (2021)

YOU WANT TO BE A WARRIOR? YOU WANT TO BE A PROTECTOR OF WAKANDA?
THEN FIGHT ME!
SURE. BUT I'LL TELL YOU STRAIGHT UP IT WON'T BE MUCH OF A--
...UHHH...
GOTTA LEARN TO WATCH YOUR BACK, YOUNG'N.
AND YOU WANTED TO BE A *PROTECTOR?*
SORRY... NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

TOSIN!

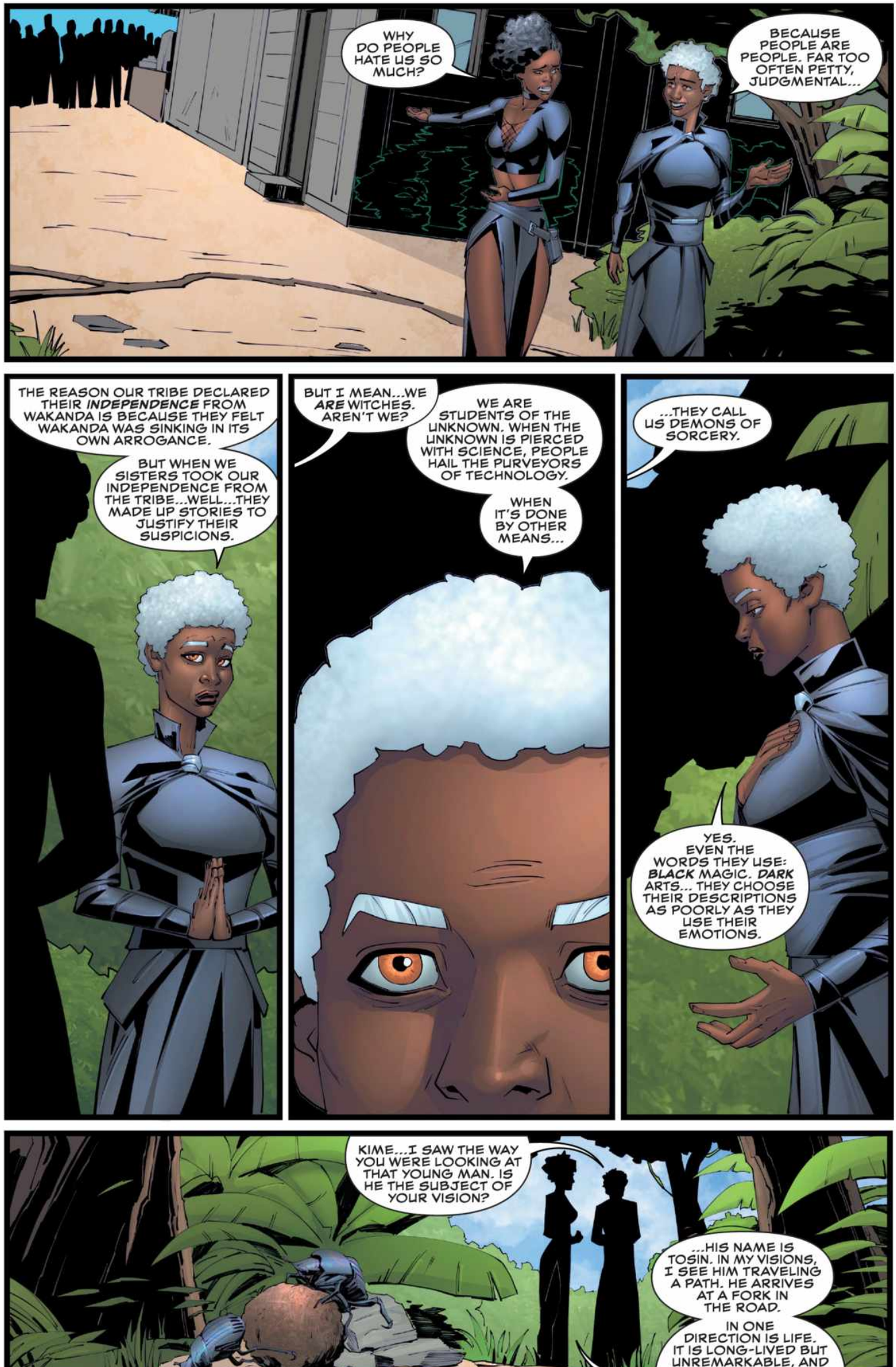
KIME... YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, GREATSISTER. JUST...A *VISION.* THAT'S ALL.
A SISTER RARELY HAS "JUST" A VISION.


AND THE VISIONS SHE DOES HAVE ALMOST ALWAYS COME TRUE.
...IS THERE NO WAY TO CHANGE THE THINGS WE SEE?

SUCH IS THE CURSE OF BEING A SISTER.
COME ON, KIME. WE'LL TALK ON THE WAY HOME.
"I AM VERY SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS:"

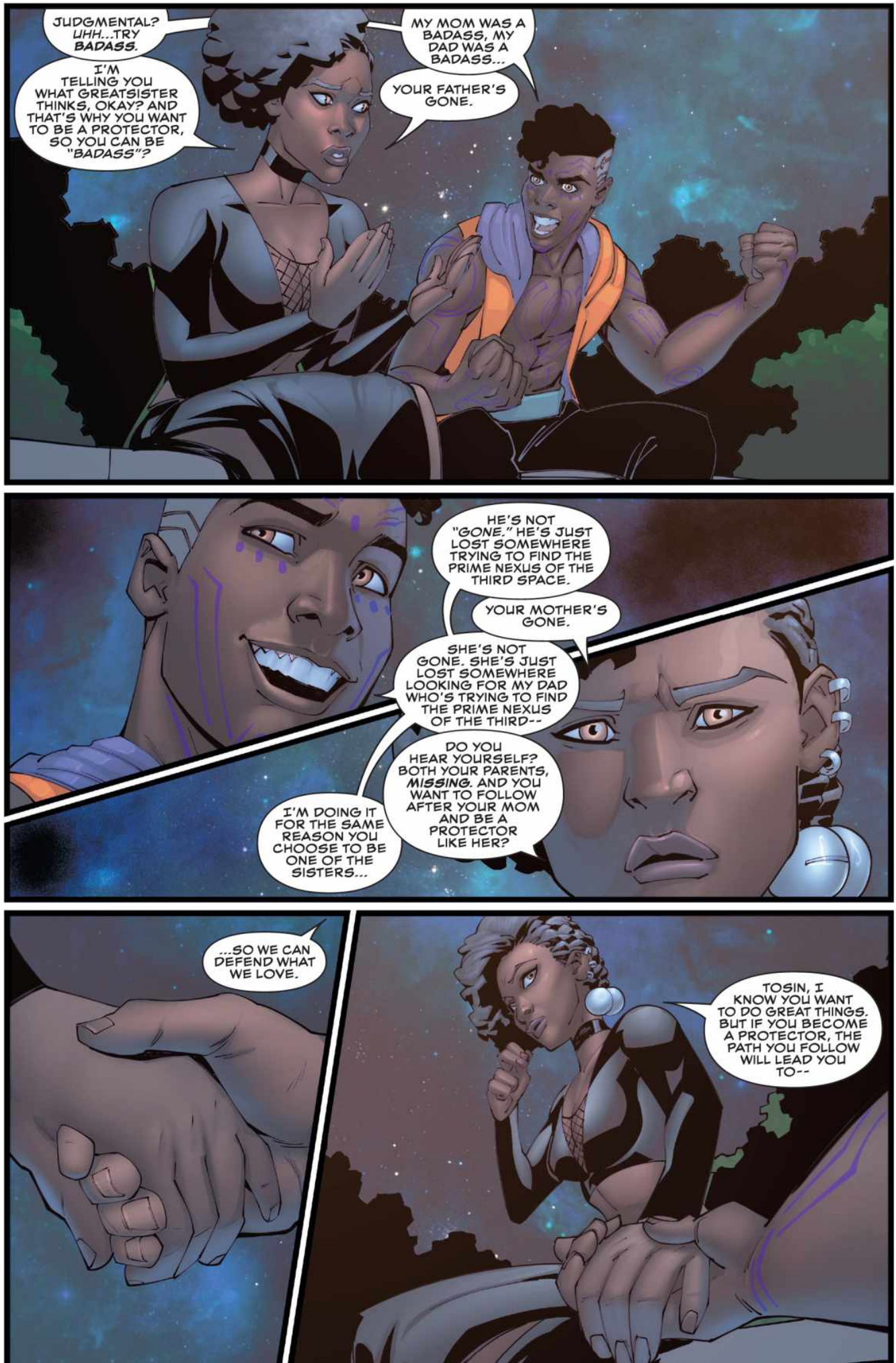
YOU'RE DEAD.
I AM NOT DEAD, DHARI.
YOU FAILED TO DEFEND YOURSELF.
FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS TRAINING EXERCISE, TOSIN, YOU ARE "DEAD."
WASN'T A FAIR FIGHT. I DIDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO TRANSFORM.
FIGHTS ARE RARELY "FAIR." OPPONENTS DON'T OFTEN "GIVE" ADVANTAGE.
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO BE A PROTECTOR AS YOUR MOTHER WAS, YOU STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.
BUT I WILL LEARN.
...WON'T I...?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION, DHARI.
I CAN'T RESPOND TO THAT WHICH I DON'T KNOW.

THE "MUTE ZONE" VILLAGE OF ZIERRA. HOME OF THE MARUBE TRIBE.
...LOOK AT THEM...
...PART OF THE SISTERHOOD...
...WITCHES...
...BLACK MAGIC...
...DARK ARTS...
...EVIL...
...UNNATURAL...
...STAY AWAY FROM THEM...
KIME...
...COME ALONG.
WHY ARE PEOPLE AFRAID OF THE SISTERS?
THEY TRADE IN THE UNNATURAL. LITTLE GOOD COMES FROM WHAT IS NOT OF NATURE, TOSIN. BE IT SCIENCE OR MAGIC.


WHY DO PEOPLE HATE US SO MUCH?
BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE. FAR TOO OFTEN PETTY, JUDGMENTAL...
THE REASON OUR TRIBE DECLARED THEIR *INDEPENDENCE* FROM WAKANDA IS BECAUSE THEY FELT WAKANDA WAS SINKING IN ITS OWN ARROGANCE.
BUT WHEN WE SISTERS TOOK OUR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE TRIBE...WELL...THEY MADE UP STORIES TO JUSTIFY THEIR SUSPICIONS.
BUT I MEAN...WE *ARE* WITCHES. AREN'T WE?
WE ARE STUDENTS OF THE UNKNOWN. WHEN THE UNKNOWN IS PIERCED WITH SCIENCE, PEOPLE HAIL THE PURVEYORS OF TECHNOLOGY.
WHEN IT'S DONE BY OTHER MEANS...
...THEY CALL US DEMONS OF SORCERY.
YES. EVEN THE WORDS THEY USE: *BLACK* MAGIC. *DARK* ARTS... THEY CHOOSE THEIR DESCRIPTIONS AS POORLY AS THEY USE THEIR EMOTIONS.
KIME...I SAW THE WAY YOU WERE LOOKING AT THAT YOUNG MAN. IS HE THE SUBJECT OF YOUR VISION?
...HIS NAME IS TOSIN. IN MY VISIONS, I SEE HIM TRAVELING A PATH. HE ARRIVES AT A FORK IN THE ROAD.
IN ONE DIRECTION IS LIFE. IT IS LONG-LIVED BUT UNREMARKABLE, AND

"...NOTHING. WHITENESS. A GREAT VOID."

"...BUT THE PATH THAT TOSIN TRAVELS IS FOR *HIM* TO DECIDE."
TOSIN.
KIME...
WE CAN'T KEEP ON LIKE THIS.
MEETING UP SECRETLY.
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? MY TEACHER THINKS YOU AND THE SISTERS ARE EVIL SORCERERS.
YEAH. I KNOW. AND GREATSISTER THINKS THE PROTECTORS ARE ARROGANT AND JUDGMENTAL.


JUDGMENTAL? UHH...TRY BADASS.
I'M TELLING YOU WHAT GREATSISTER THINKS, OKAY? AND THAT'S WHY YOU WANT TO BE A PROTECTOR, SO YOU CAN BE "BADASS"?
MY MOM WAS A BADASS, MY DAD WAS A BADASS...
YOUR FATHER'S GONE.
HE'S NOT "GONE." HE'S JUST LOST SOMEWHERE TRYING TO FIND THE PRIME NEXUS OF THE THIRD SPACE.
YOUR MOTHER'S GONE.
SHE'S NOT GONE. SHE'S JUST LOST SOMEWHERE LOOKING FOR MY DAD WHO'S TRYING TO FIND THE PRIME NEXUS OF THE THIRD--
DO YOU HEAR YOURSELF? BOTH YOUR PARENTS, MISSING. AND YOU WANT TO FOLLOW AFTER YOUR MOM AND BE A PROTECTOR LIKE HER?
I'M DOING IT FOR THE SAME REASON YOU CHOOSE TO BE ONE OF THE SISTERS...
...SO WE CAN DEFEND WHAT WE LOVE.
TOSIN, I KNOW YOU WANT TO DO GREAT THINGS. BUT IF YOU BECOME A PROTECTOR, THE PATH YOU FOLLOW WILL LEAD YOU TO--

BOOOM
THAT'S THE VIBRANIUM MINE. I GOTTA SEE WHAT'S GOING ON.
TOSIN, WAIT...
WHAT?
YOU...YOU CAN'T...
PEOPLE MIGHT BE HURT. IF I CAN HELP THEM, I HAVE TO TRY.
...GO DO YOU.
...WHOA...

SO IT'S LIKE THIS: YOU CAN GIVE ME THE VIBRANIUM I WANT...
...OR YOU CAN DIE TRYING TO PROTECT IT.
DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT I KNOW...
...I HAVE TO STOP HIM.

I WARNED YOU. YOU SHOULD'VE--
...NUUUHHH...
WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU NEED TO HAUL TAIL OUT OF WAKANDA.
"WHOEVER I AM"? IT'S THE ABOMINATION, KID. YOU GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
NOT...
...FROM...
...YOU!

...UUUUGGGH...
CLAMP
ZZZRRRTTTT
...WHAT DID YOU DO...?
OHYAKU WARNED ME ABOUT YOUR KIND.
OHYAKU?
SHE WANTS TO MESS WITH WAKANDA, I WANT VIBRANIUM. WE MAKE A GOOD PAIR.
FAIRLY EASY TO DESIGN A DEVICE TO SHUT YOU DOWN.
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU BLACK PANTHER WANNABES. YOUR BIOHYBRIDIZATION ABILITIES ARE ACTIVATED BY NEUROELECTRIC IMPULSES.
YAH KNOW, BASIC

HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, KID, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE PICKED ANOTHER PROFESSION.
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...
...AS YOU DIE.
THUNK
...THE HELL...?

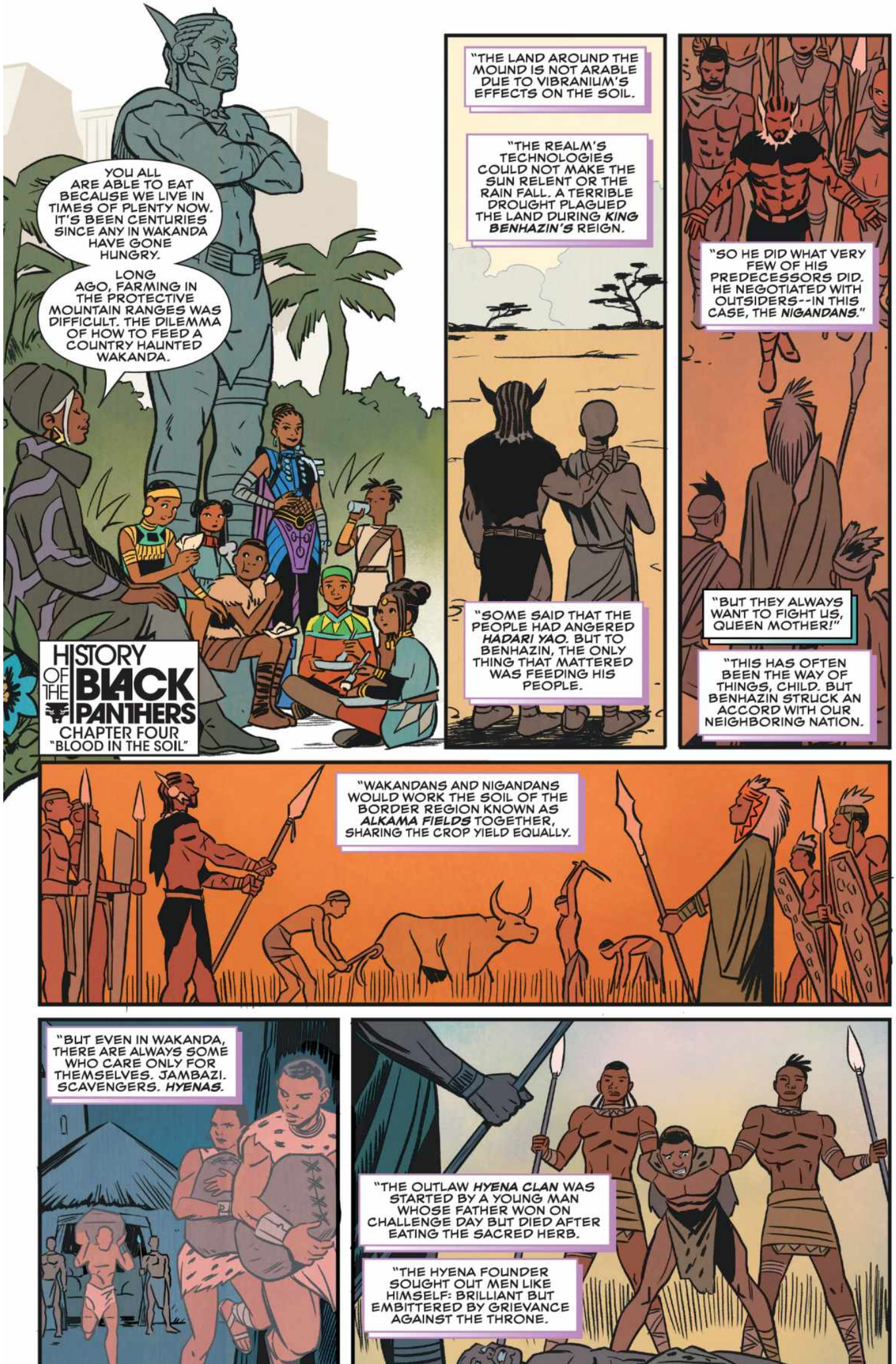
MIGHT WANT TO BACK OFF, OTHERWISE, MY MOOD'S GONNA GET A LITTLE FOUL.
AND TRUST ME: YOU DO NOT WANT TO GET ON A SISTER'S BAD SIDE.
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, I'M FAIRLY PROGRESSIVE, SO I'VE GOT NO PROBLEM KILLING GIRLS.
RIGHT. ON BEHALF OF US "GIRLS"...
...HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU ALL I'VE GOT?!
...HUUUUH...

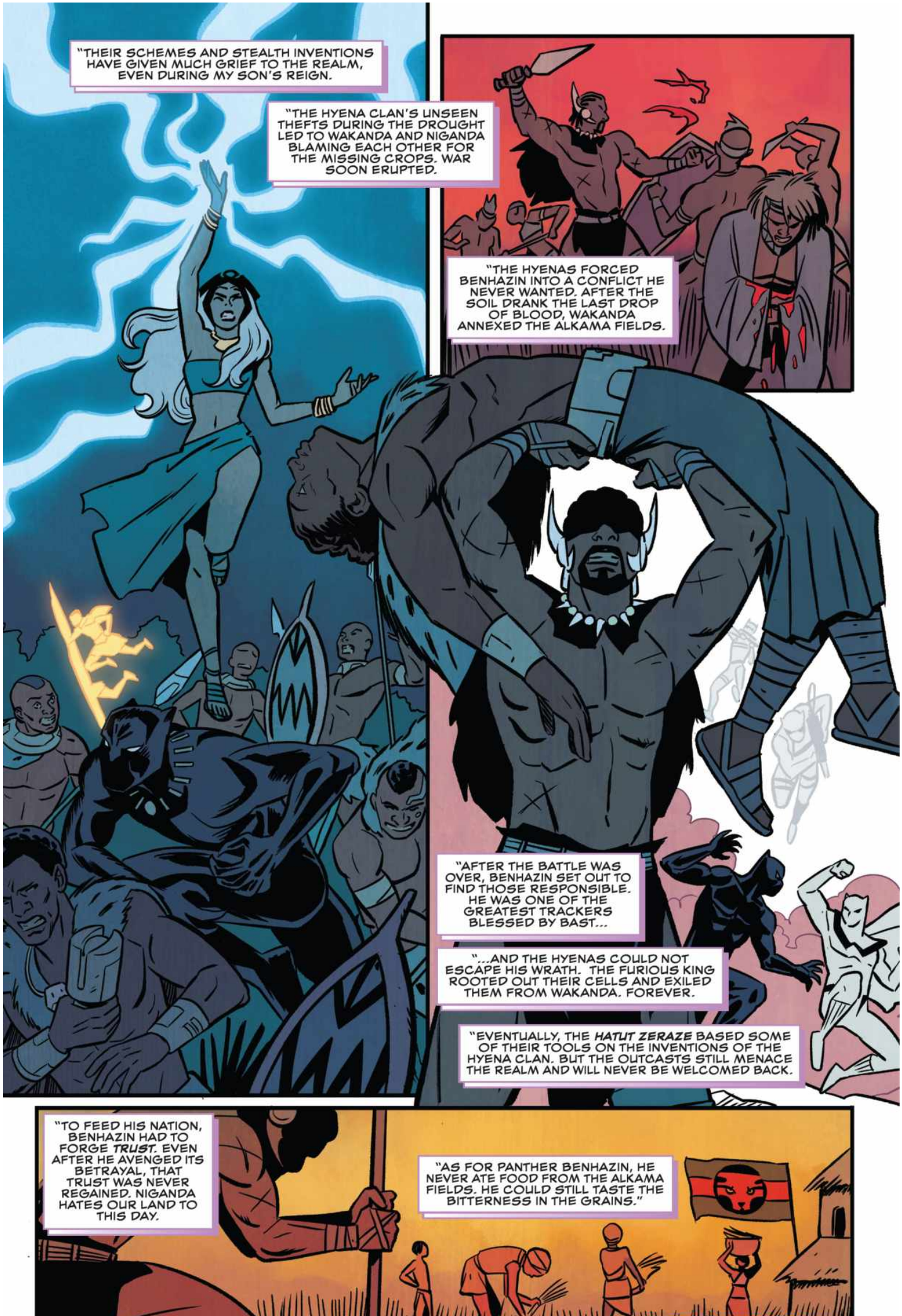
THAT'S IT? THAT WAS NOTHING.
WHAT CAN I TELL YOU? IF MY ATTACK WAS NOTHING...
...NOT THERE...?
...IT'S BECAUSE I AM NOTHING.

...KIME...
THE CHARM OF DISTRACTION. SLIGHT BUT USEFUL.
HOLD ON, 'KAY? 'CAUSE THIS IS LIKELY TO...
...HURT!
AHHHH!
READY FOR ROUND TWO?
I AM NOW.

THEN LET'S GET AT IT!
...PHHHHUUU...
...GONNA... GONNA TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KEEP ME DOWN.
KIME?
"MORE THAN THAT"...
...COMING UP.
...NUUHHHH...

C'MON. THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM. WE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN TOGETHER.
YOU KNOW... WE DID PRETTY WELL TONIGHT.
YOU ALMOST GOT KILLED. IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE--
BUT YOU *WERE* THERE. JUST LIKE WE'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.
...LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND GET SOME REST... I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
SURE. TOMORROW, THE DAY AFTER... WHENEVER.
WE'VE GOT ALL THE TIME THERE IS.


YOU ALL ARE ABLE TO EAT BECAUSE WE LIVE IN TIMES OF PLENTY NOW. IT'S BEEN CENTURIES SINCE ANY IN WAKANDA HAVE GONE HUNGRY.
LONG AGO, FARMING IN THE PROTECTIVE MOUNTAIN RANGES WAS DIFFICULT. THE DILEMMA OF HOW TO FEED A COUNTRY HAUNTED WAKANDA.
HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS
CHAPTER FOUR
"BLOOD IN THE SOIL"
"THE LAND AROUND THE MOUND IS NOT ARABLE DUE TO VIBRANIUM'S EFFECTS ON THE SOIL.
"THE REALM'S TECHNOLOGIES COULD NOT MAKE THE SUN RELENT OR THE RAIN FALL. A TERRIBLE DROUGHT PLAGUED THE LAND DURING KING BENHAZIN'S REIGN.
"SOME SAID THAT THE PEOPLE HAD ANGERED HADARI YAO. BUT TO BENHAZIN, THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED WAS FEEDING HIS PEOPLE.
"SO HE DID WHAT VERY FEW OF HIS PREDECESSORS DID. HE NEGOTIATED WITH OUTSIDERS--IN THIS CASE, THE NIGANDANS."
"BUT THEY ALWAYS WANT TO FIGHT US, QUEEN MOTHER!"
"THIS HAS OFTEN BEEN THE WAY OF THINGS, CHILD. BUT BENHAZIN STRUCK AN ACCORD WITH OUR NEIGHBORING NATION.
"WAKANDANS AND NIGANDANS WOULD WORK THE SOIL OF THE BORDER REGION KNOWN AS ALKAMA FIELDS TOGETHER, SHARING THE CROP YIELD EQUALLY.
"BUT EVEN IN WAKANDA, THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME WHO CARE ONLY FOR THEMSELVES. JAMBAZI. SCAVENGERS. HYENAS.
"THE OUTLAW HYENA CLAN WAS STARTED BY A YOUNG MAN WHOSE FATHER WON ON CHALLENGE DAY BUT DIED AFTER EATING THE SACRED HERB.
"THE HYENA FOUNDER SOUGHT OUT MEN LIKE HIMSELF: BRILLIANT BUT EMBITTERED BY GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE THRONE.


"THEIR SCHEMES AND STEALTH INVENTIONS HAVE GIVEN MUCH GRIEF TO THE REALM, EVEN DURING MY SON'S REIGN.
"THE HYENA CLAN'S UNSEEN THEFTS DURING THE DROUGHT LED TO WAKANDA AND NIGANDA BLAMING EACH OTHER FOR THE MISSING CROPS. WAR SOON ERUPTED.
"THE HYENAS FORCED BENHAZIN INTO A CONFLICT HE NEVER WANTED. AFTER THE SOIL DRANK THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD, WAKANDA ANNEXED THE ALKAMA FIELDS.
"AFTER THE BATTLE WAS OVER, BENHAZIN SET OUT TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. HE WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST TRACKERS BLESSED BY BAST...
"...AND THE HYENAS COULD NOT ESCAPE HIS WRATH. THE FURIOUS KING ROOTED OUT THEIR CELLS AND EXILED THEM FROM WAKANDA. FOREVER.
"EVENTUALLY, THE *HATUT ZERAZE* BASED SOME OF THEIR TOOLS ON THE INVENTIONS OF THE HYENA CLAN. BUT THE OUTCASTS STILL MENACE THE REALM AND WILL NEVER BE WELCOMED BACK.
"TO FEED HIS NATION, BENHAZIN HAD TO FORGE *TRUST*. EVEN AFTER HE AVENGED ITS BETRAYAL, THAT TRUST WAS NEVER REGAINED. NIGANDA HATES OUR LAND TO THIS DAY.
"AS FOR PANTHER BENHAZIN, HE NEVER ATE FOOD FROM THE ALKAMA FIELDS. HE COULD STILL TASTE THE BITTERNESS IN THE GRAINS."

HISTORY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS

ANNOTATIONS

1. **Niganda** is a neighboring nation of Wakanda that has hated Wakanda since a past king seized the Alkama Fields. In recent years, under the leadership of brutal dictator M'Butu, Erik Killmonger (N'Jadaka) and the people themselves, Niganda has failed in its attempts to conquer Wakanda. Hostilities against Wakanda remain to this day. ***Black Panther #3 (2005)***

2. Ororo Munroe is a mutant (*Homo superior*--humans born with an extra gene that generally grants them superhuman abilities) who comes from African and American bloodlines but who is also believed to be from an ancient mystical line of godheads, quasi-deities empowered by faith. As an orphaned teen in Africa, Munroe encountered a young T'Challa in her travels, the two sharing a brief romance before parting. Munroe ultimately became the weather-controlling Storm of the mutant-protecting X-Men, while T'Challa eventually claimed the role of Wakanda's Black Panther and king. The two reunited in recent years, and sparks from their youth resulted in Storm becoming T'Challa's queen. However, during a war between the X-Men and the heroic Avengers, of which T'Challa is a member, a mutant attack devastated Wakanda; T'Challa subsequently had his marriage to Storm annulled. Despite this, Storm frequently comes to the aid and defense of Wakanda, and during one such instance, Wakandan faith in her enabled her to access godhead abilities; many Wakandans now consider her to be the goddess **Hadari Yao**, the Walker of Clouds. Storm and T'Challa still have deep-seated feelings for one another and wrestle with being true to their respective duties as well as their hearts. Storm first appeared in ***Giant-Size X-Men #1 (1975)*** and was called Hadari Yao for the first time in ***Black Panther #17 (2017)***.

3. **Jakarra** was the son of T'Chaka and Wakandan spy Mateena and was raised abroad. T'Challa learned about his younger half brother's existence only after Jakarra began making moves that endangered Wakanda and sought to claim the throne. Jakarra was later mutated into a monstrous creature by vibranium and apparently died in battle with T'Challa. ***Black Panther #6 (1977)***; the battle between Black Panther, Storm, Jakarra and the Hyena Clan depicted in this story took place in ***Rise of the Black Panther #5 (2018)***.

4. After his parents died in a plane crash, an infant was adopted by Wakandan King T'Chaka and named Hunter. Growing up under the suspicions of the xenophobic Wakandan natives and jealous of T'Chaka's favored son, T'Challa, Hunter strove to become the greatest Wakandan possible, eventually earning a leadership position among Wakanda's oft-brutal Hatut Zeraze police force and gaining the title of the **White Wolf**. When T'Challa later became king and disbanded the Hatut Zeraze for their sheer brutality, the White Wolf chose exile. Still resentful of T'Challa, the White Wolf nonetheless remains an ally of Wakanda itself, aiding the country against the invading alien Cotati. ***Black Panther #4 (1999)***

5. A secret police force responsible for handling Wakanda's political enemies, the **Hatut Zeraze** are led by the White Wolf. Each member wears a vibranium mesh uniform equipped with energy-dampening boots and cloaking technology capable of rendering its wearer invisible. Despite being disbanded by T'Challa in recent years for their brutality, the now-mercenary Hatut Zeraze have nonetheless remained loyal to their country, aiding Wakanda on several occasions, including during the Wakanda/Atlantis war, where they nearly assassinated the Atlantean King Namor (McKenzie), and the extraterrestrial Cotati invasion. ***Black Panther #4 (1999)***

While a battle between Wakanda and Niganda was referenced in ***Rise of the Black Panther #2 (2018)***, the remaining characters, events, locations and items in this story all first appear in this issue, ***Wakanda #4 (2022).***

ANNOTATIONS BY MARKUS RAYMOND AND JACOB ROUGEMONT

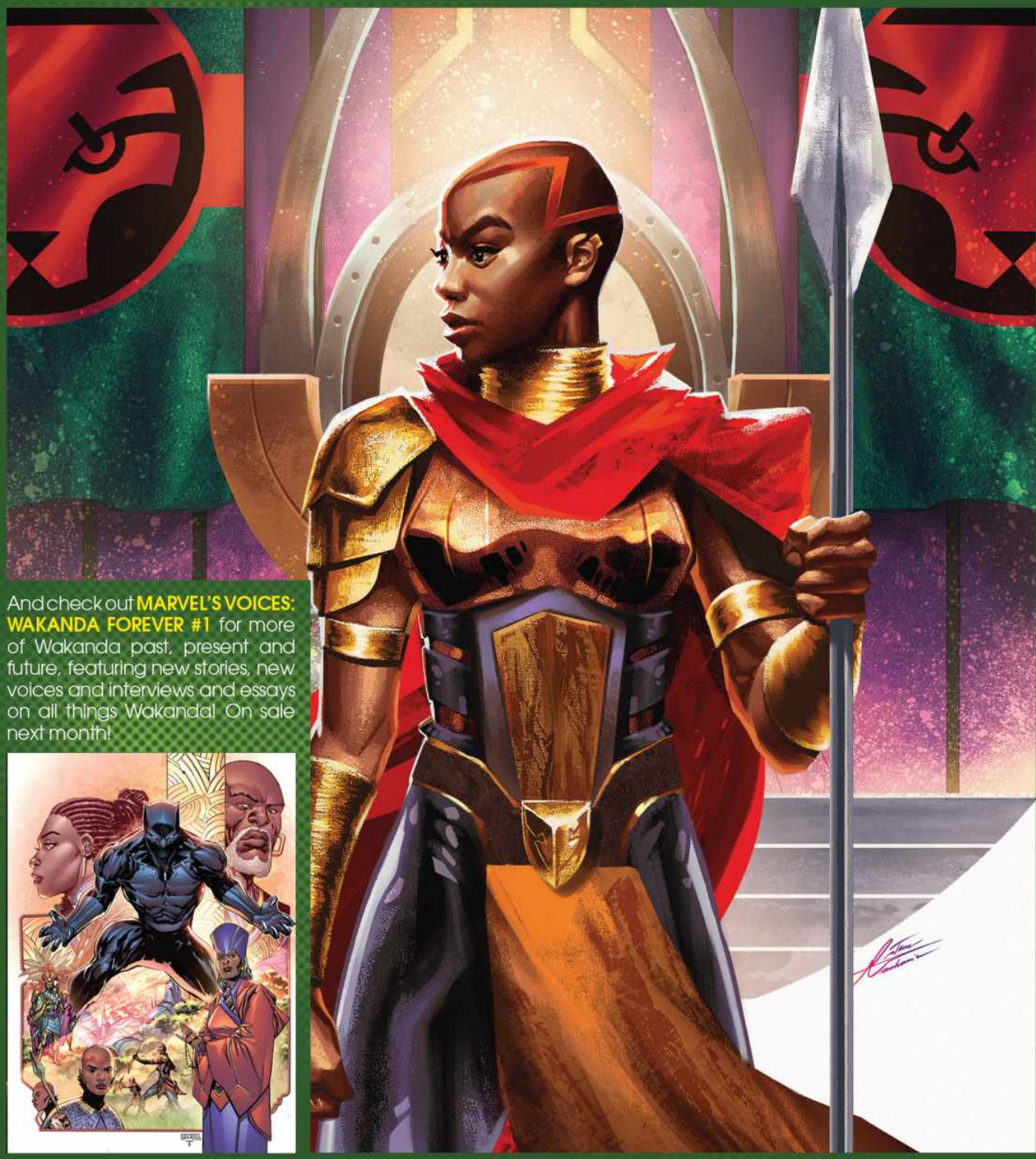
ART BY CARLOS MAGNO, JAVIER PINA, EDGAR SALAZAR, CHRIS SPROUSE, BRIAN STELFREEZE & MARK TEXEIRA

NEXT:

WAKANDA #5

With villains plaguing Wakanda and more apparently on the way, **OKOYE** takes a stand. In this twisting, exciting story by writer **Brandon Thomas** and artist **José Luís**, Okoye teaches a new member of the Dora Milaje exactly what it means to wield the spear--and teaches the world the extent of the power Wakanda still wields, even without the Black Panther.

AND don't miss the conclusion of **Evan Narcisse** and **Natacha Bustos'** "History of the Black Panthers," from Azzuri fighting with Captain America and beyond!



And check out **MARVEL'S VOICES: WAKANDA FOREVER #1** for more of Wakanda past, present and future, featuring new stories, new voices and interviews and essays on all things Wakanda! On sale next month!

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ZONE